

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 AID-05

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INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EPA-01 CEQ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3436

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMAKO 875

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP, ML

SUBJ: IMPLICATIONS OF WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH
FOR UNITED STATES SECURITY AND OVERSEAS INTERESTS-MALI

REF: STATE 301427

1. THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. ANSWERS ARE
KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 4 REFTEL. REGRET DELAY.
A. MALI IS ONE OF THE FIVE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE
WORLD, WITH A PER CAPITA GNP OF ABOUT \$70. ISOLATED,
LANDLOCKED AND DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT AID FOR
25PERCENT OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET, POPULATION POLICY HAS ONLY
RECENTLY BECOME A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST. FOOD,
WATER AND DISEASE PREVENTION HAVE HAD HIGHER PRIORITY
IN GOVERNMENT PLANNING.

IN TERMS OF POLICIES, THE GOM PERMITS, AND MAY
ENCOURAGE, FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS RUN BY PRIVATE
GROUPS, MALIAN AND FOREIGN. THIS MEANS, IN PRACTICE,
THAT ONLY MEDICAL AND WOMEN'S GROUPS CARRY OUT
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE FAMILY
PLANNING.

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THE FINANCIAL, IS RESISTANCE FROM TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS

IN THIS MUSLIM SOCIETY. THE OLD VIEW APPROVES OF A MAN TAKING FOUR WIVES AND HAVING SEVERAL CHILDREN BY EACH. THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE, HAS NOT COUNTERED THIS VIEW DIRECTLY, BUT HAS ENCOURAGED DOCTORS AND WOMEN'S LEADERS TO CONVINCE THEIR PERS OF THE MERITS OF CHILD SPACING, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, CONTRACEPTIVES, ETC. PROGRESS IS SLOW.

B. WE BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT APPROACH IS INADEQUATE. THE PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, ARE FORMIDABLE. THE POPULATION IS 95PERCENT ILLITERATE AND THE ONLY PROGRESS TO DATE HAS BEEN AMONG THE EDUCATED ELITE. WHILE ONE CAN POINT TO ACCOMPLISHMENTS AMONG THIS SMALL GROUP, THERE HAS BEEN NO IMPACT WHATSOEVER ON THE RATE OF OVERALL POPULATION GROWTH - 2.4PERCENT.

FACTORS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT POLICY HAVE A FAR GREATER EFFECT ON POPULATION GROWTH. IN PARTICULAR, THE DEATH RATE HAS DROPPED SINCE THE END OF THE DROUGHT (1972-74) TO AN ESTIMATED 24-26 PER THOUSAND.

IN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER DROUGHT WE EXPECT THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE OF 2.4PERCENT TO GROW.

FOREIGN AID TO EXPAND FAMILY PLANNING IN MALI COMES PRIMARILY FROM CANADA, TO THE CENTER FOR POPULATION STUDIES IN BAMAKO. THE U.S. IS NOT INVOLVED IN FAMILY PLANNING IN MALI.

A RECENT CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING, HELD IN BAMAKO, SHOWED THAT THERE IS AN AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM, BUT A LACK OF DIRECTION AND FUNDS TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

THIS EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD SEEK OUT APPROPRIATE WAYS TO ASSIST THE CENTER AND OTHER GROUPS IN DEVELOPING FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS.

C. MALIAN GOVERNMENT PLANNERS HAVE PUT TOGETHER A WELL-THOUGHT OUT FIVE YEAR PLAN, 1974-1978, WHICH HOWEVER DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. A LACK OF DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS, AND THE INCREASE IN DEATHS FROM THE 1972-74 DROUGHT CONVINCED THE MALIANS THEY HAD LITTLE TO WORRY ABOUT REGARDING POPULATION PRESSURES. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE MALIANS ARE PERFECTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPABLE OF GOOD DEMOGRAPHIC PLANNING, WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POPULATION GROWTH ON DOMESTIC SAVINGS, INVESTMENT AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, SHOULD THEY ACCEPT THE NEED FOR SUCH PLANNING. THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THE LACK OF TRAINED DEMOGRAPHERS.

D. THE MALIAN LEADERSHIP IS WELL AWARE OF THE IMPACT OF RURAL MIGRATION TO THE CITIES AND HAS WORKED HARD TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

IN BAMAKO (NOT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE) AND TO PROVIDE
MINIMUM ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES--WATER, TRASH
DISPOSAL, MEDICAL SERVICES AND A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SEE THIS MIGRATION
AND THE RESULTING PROBLEMS AS THE RESULT OF A HIGH
POPULATION GROWTH RATE. THE LINK HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE.
E. WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF
POPULATION GROWTH IN MALI. OVERGRAZING AND EROSION ARE
PERHAPS MORE THE RESULT OF A NOMADIC SOCIAL SYSTEM THAT
REWARDS A MAN BY THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS HE OWNS, RATHER
THAN BY THEIR QUALITY.

THE ENVIRONMENT CERTAINLY SUFFERS BY
POPULATION GROWTH, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE ARE NO
SEWAGE OR WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS. MALIANS, HOWEVER,
WOULD SEE THE SOLUTION TO THAT PROBLEM IN FOREIGN FINANCING
OF THE REQUIRED FACILITIES, RATHER THAN IN FAMILY
PLANNING.

F. ANTICIPATED POPULATION GROWTH IN MALI WILL ADD TO
THE POSSIBILITY OF UNREST AND EXTREMISM WHICH, IN TURN,
WILL ACCELERATE TENDENCIES TOWARDS AUTHORITARIANISM.

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3437

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BAMAKO 875

FOR YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAS HIRED ALL HIGH SCHOOL
AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATES WHO WANTED JOBS. THIS HAS
MEANT A BLOATED BUREAUCRACY, PARTICULARLY IN THE STATE
ENTERPRISES. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A CRUSHING DRAIN ON

THE NATIONAL BUDGET--72PERCENT NOW GOES FOR GOVERNMENT SALARIES--AND AN UNPROFITABLE AND SUBSIDIZED ECONOMIC SECTOR. FOREIGN DONORS, PARTICULARLY FRANCE AND SAUDI ARABIA, MAKE UP MOST OF THE DEFICIT, BUT THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE JOBS OR RISK POLITICAL UNREST.

SOME MALIANS DO MIGRATE TO THE COAST IN SEARCH OF JOBS AND GENERALLY DO WELL, BUT THERE IS A LIMITED AS TO HOW MANY MORE WILL BE ADMITTED TO THESE COUNTRIES. THE MALIAN ARMY AND GENDARMERIE COULD BE EXPANDED, BUT THAT COULD POSE A THREAT TO THE REGIME. THE ADDED COSTS WOULD ALSO BE DESTABILIZING.

WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY DIMLY PERCEIVED THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF A LACK OF A POPULATION POLICY.

G. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD COOPERATE WITH THE U.N. FAMILY (UNFPA HAS DONE PRELIMINARY WORK HERE), WHICH IS ACTIVE AND WELL-REPRESENTED IN MALI, AND WITH INDIVIDUAL DONOR STATES INTERESTED IN POPULATION PROGRAMS. ALL DONORS SHOULD BE ASKED TO EXAMINE THE

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DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECT OF THEIR PROGRAMS. A KEY AREA AS IN HEALTH PROGRAMS. A STRIKING RISE IN THE GROWTH RATE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY SHOULD LEALTH SERVICES IMPROVE FROM THEIR PRESENT LOW. LEVEL. THE MALIAN POPULATION GROWTH RATE OF 2.4PERCENT WOULD THEN GO MUCH HIGHER.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MALI ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH NOW TO MAKE AN IMPACT. THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MALIAN WOMEN, HOWEVER, HAS MADE AN IMPRESSIVE START AND IS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES TO ALL MALIAN WOMEN. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY GRANTED \$10,000 TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION IN SELF-HELP FUNDS AND IS INVESTIGATING OTHER WAYS TO BE HELPFUL, INCLUDING DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADVANCE FAMILY PLANNING.

2. IN SUMMARY, POPULATION PROGRAMS HAVE JUST BEGUN IN MALI. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ARE KEY TO ANY FUTURE POPULATION CONTROL POLICY AND WE BELIEVE THAT A START HAS BEEN MADE. CONTINUED FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER, AND WILL PROBABLY BE FORTHCOMING. WE ALSO PLAN TO DISCUSS POPULATION PROBLEMS DURING OUR REGULAR CONTACTS WITH SENIOR MALIAN OFFICIALS SINCE THEY READILY UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS OF HIGH POPULATION GROWTH, BUT HAVE NOT YET FOCUSED ON POPULATION POLICY AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING THOSE PROBLEMS.

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